The Claims:

Claims 1 - 11 of the present application have been amended, as indicated below.

Claims 12 - 30 have been cancelled.

New Claims 31 - 40 have been added.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A centralized computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, said centralized computer system comprising:

a plurality of server computer devices,

wherein the plurality of server computer devices are adapted to communicate cooperatively,

wherein at least a first server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is adapted for concurrent remote[ly] access[ible] by [to]the plurality of users via a global-communications network, and

wherein each server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to perform a plurality of activities in support of a at least one particular shipping management function of a plurality of shipping management functions, wherein each server computer device is programmed to support a different particular function, and wherein each particular shipping management function contributes to managing shipping of the plurality of parcels, and wherein at least a second server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to perform a first particular shipping management function, wherein said first particular shipping management function

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comprises rating each respective request by each respective user of the plurality of users to ship a respective parcel.

2.   (Currently Amended) The centralized computer system of Claim 1, wherein at least a third server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to perform a second particular shipping management function, wherein said second particular shipping management function comprises generating a respective display of respective shipping rates to a respective display device associated with a respective client computer used by a respective user to access the centralized computer system said plurality of server computer devices of said computer system further comprising:

a first server computer programmed to communicate with each of the plurality of users over multiple telecommunications connections over the global communications network at one time.

3.   (Currently Amended) The centralized computer system of Claim [2]1, wherein at least a third server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to perform a second particular shipping management function, wherein said second particular shipping management function comprises obtaining respective carrier tracking information from a respective carrier system regarding a respective shipping status corresponding to a respective parcel that was shipped by a respective user said plurality of server computer devices of said computer system further comprising:

a second server computer programmed to obtain data from at least one system database in response to each user input of a request by each particular user to ship a parcel.

4.   (Currently Amended) The centralized computer system of Claim [3]1, wherein at least a third server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to perform a second particular shipping management function, wherein said second particular shipping management function comprises receiving a respective shipping input from each respective user of a

first subset of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer
device, wherein each said respective shipping input comprises: a first respective
item of information characterizing a respective parcel to be shipped by the
respective user, a first respective location from which the respective parcel is to
be shipped by the respective user, and a second respective location to which the
respective parcel is to be shipped by the respective user~~said plurality of server~~
~~computer devices of said computer system further comprising:~~

~~a third server computer programmed to use the data obtained for shipping~~
~~the parcel to calculate a first shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the parcel and~~
~~to calculate a second shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the parcel.~~

5.   (Currently Amended) The centralized computer system of Claim 4,
wherein at least a fourth server computer device of the plurality of server
computer devices is programmed to perform a third particular shipping
management function, wherein said third particular shipping management
function comprises using each respective shipping input from each respective
user to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the
respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second
carrier to ship the respective parcel ~~said plurality of server computer devices of~~
~~said computer system further comprising:~~

~~a fourth server computer programmed to obtain carrier tracking~~
~~information from each of a plurality of carrier computer systems accessible over~~
~~the global communications network.~~

6.   (Currently Amended) A centralized computer system for managing
shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers,
wherein each user accesses the centralized computer system over a ~~global~~
communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein
each respective user client computer device ~~having an individual electronic~~
~~connection to the global~~ is adapted for communications with the centralized
computer system via the communications network, said centralized computer
system comprising:

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a plurality of server computer devices,

wherein a first server computer device is programmed to communicate with each of the plurality of users over multiple telecommunications connections over the ~~global~~ communications network at one time, and

wherein a second server computer device is programmed to obtain carrier tracking information from each of a plurality of carrier computer systems accessible over the ~~global~~ communications network.

7.   (Currently Amended) A centralized computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a ~~global~~ communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the centralized computer system via the ~~having an individual electronic connection to the global~~ communications network, said centralized computer system comprising:

a plurality of server computer devices,

wherein a first server computer device is programmed to communicate with each of the plurality of users ~~over multiple telecommunications connections over a global~~ via the communications network at one time,

wherein a second server computer device is programmed to obtain respective data from at least one system database in respective response to each respective user input of a respective request by each ~~particular~~ respective user to ship a respective parcel, and

wherein a third server computer device is programmed to use the respective data obtained for shipping the respective parcel to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the respective parcel.

8.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 7, wherein a fourth server computer is programmed to obtain carrier tracking information from

[each]any carrier computer system of a plurality of carrier computer systems accessible over the global-communications network.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a plurality of server computer devices for managing shipping of a plurality of respective parcels by a plurality of respective users using any carrier of a plurality of carriers, wherein each server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is adapted for communication connected to and communicates with at least one other server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices, wherein at least [one] a first server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is adapted for concurrent remote[ly] access[ible] by the plurality of respective users [over]via a global-communications network, said method comprising:

programming each of the plurality of server computer devices to perform a plurality of activities in support of a particular function, wherein each server computer device is programmed to support a different particular function, and wherein each particular function contributes to managing shipping of the plurality of parcels at least a second server computer device to concurrently receive a respective shipping input from each respective user of a first subset of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device accessed by each respective user of the first subset of the plurality of respective users, wherein each said respective shipping input comprises: a first respective item of information characterizing a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, a first respective location from which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the respective user, and a second respective location to which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the respective user.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9 of configuring a plurality of server computer devices for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, said method further comprising:

programming each subset of a plurality of subsets of said server computer devices to support a particular function wherein each subset of server computer

~~devices comprises at least one server computer device~~ at least a third server computer device to receive a respective tracking input from each respective user of a second subset of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device, wherein each said respective tracking input comprises a respective identifier of a respective parcel that has been shipped by the respective user using a respective carrier of the plurality of carriers; and

programming at least a fourth server computer device to obtain respective carrier tracking information from a respective carrier system regarding a respective shipping status corresponding to the respective identifier.

11. (Currrently Amended) The method of Claim [10]9 ~~of configuring a plurality of server computer devices for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers~~, said method further comprising:

programming ~~each subset of the plurality of subsets of said server computer devices to support a different particular function than is supported by any other subset of server computer devices~~ at least a third server computer device to use each respective shipping input from each respective user to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the respective parcel.

Claims 12 - 30 (Cancelled).

31. (New) A centralized computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of respective parcels by a plurality of respective users using any carrier of a plurality of carriers, said centralized computer system comprising:

at least a first server computer device that is adapted for concurrent remote access by a plurality of respective client computer devices via a communications network; and

at least a second server computer device that is programmed to receive a respective shipping input from each respective user of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device, wherein each said respective

shipping input comprises: a first respective item of information characterizing a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, a first respective location from which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the respective user, and a second respective location to which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the respective user.

32.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, said centralized computer system further comprising:

at least a third server computer device that is programmed to use each respective shipping input from each respective user to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the respective parcel.

33.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 32, said centralized computer system further comprising:

at least a fourth server computer device that is programmed to generate a respective display of each first respective shipping rate and each second respective shipping rate to a respective display device adapted for communication with the respective client computer device used by the respective user.

34.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, said centralized computer system further comprising:

at least a third server computer device that is programmed to receive a respective tracking input from each respective user of a subset of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device, wherein each said respective tracking input comprises a respective identifier of a respective parcel that has been shipped by the respective user using a respective carrier of the plurality of carriers; and

at least a fourth server computer device that is programmed to obtain respective carrier tracking information from a respective carrier system regarding a respective shipping status corresponding to the respective identifier.

35.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, said centralized computer system further comprising:

a first plurality of server computer devices, wherein each server computer device of the first plurality of server computer devices is adapted for concurrent remote access by a plurality of respective client computer devices via a communications network; and

a second plurality of server computer devices that are each programmed to receive a respective shipping input from respective users of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device, wherein each said respective shipping input comprises: a first respective item of information characterizing a respective parcel to be shipped by a particular respective user, a first respective location from which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the particular respective user, and a second respective location to which the respective parcel is to be shipped by the particular respective user.

36.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, said centralized computer system further comprising:

a third plurality of server computer devices that are each programmed to use a respective shipping input from respective users to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the respective parcel.

37.   (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, wherein the second server computer device is further programmed to:

use each respective shipping input from each respective user to calculate a first respective shipping rate for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel and to calculate a second respective shipping rate for a second carrier to ship the respective parcel.

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38. (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 31, wherein the second server computer device is further programmed to:

use each respective shipping input from each respective user to calculate a first respective shipping rate and determine a first delivery schedule for a first carrier to ship the respective parcel via a first delivery service and to calculate a second respective shipping rate and determine a second delivery schedule for the first carrier to ship the respective parcel via a second delivery service.

39. (New) The centralized computer system of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of server computer devices are adapted to communicate cooperatively.

40. (New) A centralized computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of respective parcels by a plurality of respective users using any carrier of a plurality of carriers, said centralized computer system comprising:

at least a first server computer device that is adapted for concurrent remote access by a plurality of respective client computer devices via a communications network;

at least a second server computer device that is programmed to receive a respective input from each respective user of the plurality of respective users via a respective client computer device, wherein at least one said respective input comprises a respective identifier of a respective parcel that has been shipped by the respective user using a respective carrier of the plurality of carriers; and

at least a third server computer device that is programmed to obtain respective carrier tracking information from a respective carrier system regarding a respective shipping status corresponding to the respective identifier.